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NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD

FEB 13 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Intelligence Community Linguist Resources

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1. At my request, an ad hoc task force established by the Board has reviewed the prospects and problems of assuring the Community adequate Russian linguist resources to perform its current and future missions. Its report, forwarded herewith for your review and comment, indicates that chronic problems of supply, proficiency and assignment exist, although a number of useful measures seeking to remedy them have been undertaken. Although the report focused on Russian linguists, I suspect the Community faces needs and problems across a broad spectrum of languages and that action taken to address them must be comprehensive.

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2. At a time when the volume and linguistic diversity of intelligence collection are rapidly expanding, Community operations are increasingly vulnerable to difficulties caused by insufficient capability to handle collected data that requires transcription, translation, or other linguistic processing. I recognize, however, that competing resource demands and administrative restrictions are likely to constrain the extent to which the task force's recommendations can be implemented at the agency level.

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3. I am, therefore, directing that the ad hoc task force, under the leadership of my Deputy for Resource Management, design a national program to:

a. expand and coordinate linguist recruitment activity;

b. develop and maintain language training and proficiency standards; and

c. implement, as necessary, incentives programs designed to attract and retain qualified linguists in critical languages and skills.

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My objective is to provide greater resources and flexibility to agency linguist development efforts. The program will not aim toward supra-agency personnel management. I will submit the task force's proposals for your review and comment.

SIGNED

STANSFIELD TURNER

Attachment:

NFIB Ad Hoc Task Force Report
on the Prospects for Intelligence
Community Supply of Russian Linguists

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